

Sean McQueen

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10 years of software engineering experience.

EXPERIENCE

LaunchScience – I co-founded this startup, we were acquired in December 2023

Seattle, WA

Co-founder and CTO | March 2022 - December 2023

- Raised \$4 million from top VC firms to build a SaaS product for product marketers with large-language models.
- Hired a team of 5 software engineers and oversaw all aspects of technology. Set technical direction, approved all architecture decisions, reviewed all pull-requests and managed all software engineers.
- Built a flexible web application on stable infra using Django, React, TypeScript, Tailwind, OpenAI and AWS (Fargate, Postgres RDS, S3, Cloudfront). All technology choices were made to enable customer success.
- Prioritized continuous deployment: from day 1, all production deployments were done automatically. Fostered a culture of testing and feature-flags required for this way of working. Additionally built a sophisticated set of Github Actions that allowed for creating ad-hoc copies of the full application (deployed to the internet) with 1 click from any git branch, which enabled rapid experimentation and collaboration.
- We sold LaunchScience in December 2023 to Octane11 – a competitor in marketing technology.

Twitter – left under previous corporate ownership to co-found LaunchScience

New York, NY

Engineering Manager, ML Platform | December 2020 - March 2022

- Managed a team of 8 Software Engineers responsible for building an ML orchestration platform.
- Oversaw the design and delivery of a new ML pipeline platform, migrating to use TFX, BigQuery and Kubeflow Pipelines on Google Cloud Platform; allowing ML teams to retrain models with less effort across Ads, Newsfeed and Onboarding groups.
- Oversaw 0% attrition, 3 promotions (including 1 Staff) over 2 years and the highest manager pulse scores on 2021 surveys across my director's organization (7 EMs).
- Co-created the ML Platform support process at Twitter, which consisted of a Slack channel with 600 customer engineers, a set of docs about our ML tooling and an on-call rotation for answering customer questions and improving docs. This drove knowledge sharing and ML velocity outcomes across Twitter.

Senior ML Engineer, ML Platform | March 2019 - December 2020

- Designed and executed a transition of all Airflow pipelines at Twitter from Python 2.7 to 3.x, which touched 100k+ lines of code in the monorepo. My idea to own this process in a centralized way allowed dozens of teams to skip the transition themselves and reduced technical debt in data pipeline orchestration.
- Led ownership transition of the Airflow Platform to a new team in the Data Platform organization, increasing my team's engineering bandwidth by 2x and allowing Airflow to have continued stewardship at Twitter.

Beeswax – I was employee 14, Beeswax was acquired by Comcast in 2021

New York, NY

Senior Software Engineer / Tech-Lead | November 2016 - March 2019

- Built a Real Time User Filtering system performing over 1 million user segment lookups per second; enabling advertising re-targeting at scale and \$2MM+ in recurring business.
- Built a tool for writing and maintaining automated pagerduty alerts for new services, increasing the number of production alerts by 10x and making healthy alerting practices a company standard.
- Created a new team to own the customer-facing API, acted as Tech Lead for a team of 4. Re-architected the backend for our customer-facing API from a single-tenant to multi-tenant architecture with no downtime.
- Acted as the bar-raiser for coding skills across all engineering roles in the company. I interviewed 200+ software engineers in this role, helping Beeswax rapidly grow to 100+ employees.
- Reduced our AWS bill by more than my own salary multiple times.

Nextdoor – I was employee 40, Nextdoor went public in 2021

Software Engineer | December 2013 - May 2016

San Francisco, CA

- Wrote the Newsfeed API, an internal Python interface for requesting posts, comments, likes from the Newsfeed Service; decreased backend newsfeed latency by 10x, which was an urgent need because of rapid user growth.
- Built the newsfeed ads selection algorithm that made Nextdoor's first \$1 of revenue.

EDUCATION

Claremont McKenna College

2013

Computer Science & Economics, double bachelors

Claremont, CA

- Founder of the Claremont Coding Club.
- Managing Editor, college newspaper.
- Majority of CS courses taken at **Harvey Mudd College**.